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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Fourteenth executive session
Geneva, 24 March 1997

SYNOPTIC RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD AT ITS FOURTEENTH EXECUTIVE SESSION
(24 March 1997)

Prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat */

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The Board adopted, without amendment, the provisional agenda for its fourteenth executive session circulated in TD/B/EX(14)/1. Upon the proposal of the President, the Board agreed to consider items 6 and 7 together.

Item 2: Issues arising in the wake of the WTO Ministerial Conference for analysis in UNCTAD from a development perspective

Documentation

In connection with this item, the secretariat made available the following documents:

- Singapore Ministerial Declaration, adopted on 13 December 1996 (WTO document WT/MIN(96)/DEC).

- "High-level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least Developed Countries' Trade Development" - Informal note by the ITC, UNCTAD and WTO secretariats.

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*/ Pending the distribution of the final report of the Trade and Development Board on its fourteenth executive session (to be issued in TD/B/EX(14)/5), the secretariat is circulating this synoptic record of the fourteenth executive session for the information of delegations and other users. The final report will contain the summaries of statements made on the various items.

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Speakers on item 2

1. Secretary-General of UNCTAD
2. Morocco
3. Netherlands (for European Union)
4. Switzerland
5. Russian Federation
6. Haiti
7. Bangladesh
8. Morocco (for African Group)
9. Madagascar
10. Jamaica (for Latin American and Caribbean Group)
11. Cuba
12. Peru
13. Canada
14. Uganda
15. Zimbabwe
16. Japan
17. Nepal
18. Secretary-General of UNCTAD (response to Zimbabwe)

Action on item 2

The Board took note of the statements and comments made on this item and agreed that they would be fully reflected in the final report on the fourteenth executive session.

Item 3: Coordination and cooperation between UNCTAD and relevant international organizations

Documentation

- "UNCTAD's cooperation with international organizations in the field of trade and development" - Note by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/EX(14)/2 and Corr.1)

Speakers on item 3

1. Chief, Inter-Organizational Affairs and Technical Cooperation
2. Philippines (for Asian Group and China)
3. Pakistan
4. Netherlands (for European Union)
5. Morocco (for African Group)
6. Norway
7. Jamaica (for Latin American and Caribbean Group)
8. Mexico
9. Chief, Inter-Organizational Affairs and Technical Cooperation.

Action on item 3

The Board took note of the report by the UNCTAD secretariat on this item (TD/B/EX(14)/2 and Corr.1) and encouraged the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to continue his efforts in improving coordination and cooperation between UNCTAD and other relevant international organizations. The Board decided that it should continue to monitor progress in this area.

Item 4: Technical cooperation:

(a) Strategy for UNCTAD

(b) 1997-1999 plan for technical cooperation

Documentation

- "Technical cooperation" - Part I: Note by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/EX(14)/3)

- "Technical cooperation" - Part II: Working sheets (TD/B/EX(14)/3/Add.1 and Corr.1)

Speakers on item 4

1. Chief, Inter-Organizational Affairs and Technical Cooperation
2. Jamaica (for Latin American and Caribbean Group)
3. Ethiopia
4. Morocco (for African Group)
5. Netherlands (for European Union)
6. Norway
7. Philippines (for Asian Group and China)
8. Switzerland
9. Chief, Inter-Organizational Affairs and Technical Cooperation

Action on item 4

The Board noted the progress in developing the technical cooperation strategy and requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to continue his consultations with a view to enabling the Board to adopt the strategy formally at its fifteenth executive session in June 1997.

The Board also took note of the 1997-1999 plan for technical cooperation and the comments made thereon by delegations, and requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to take these comments into account in the implementation of the plan.

Item 5: Progress report on the work of the secretariat task force on publications policy

Documentation

Speaking notes of the Chief of Programme Planning and Assessment (Chairman of the secretariat task force on publications policy) [Circulated to the meeting in English only]

Speakers on item 5

1. Chief of Programme Planning and Assessment (Chairman of the task force)
2. Netherlands (for European Union)
3. Ethiopia
4. Secretary of the Trade and Development Board

Action on item 5

The Board took note of the oral report by the Chairman of the secretariat task force, as reflected in his speaking notes, and requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to proceed with the completion of his own report on UNCTAD's publications policy. The Board further agreed that this item would be taken up at the monthly consultations of the President scheduled for 30 April 1997.

Item 6: Report of the President on his consultations designed to improve the way the Board addresses the issue of interdependence, including LDCs and UN-NADAF

and

Item 7: Provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Board

Documentation

- Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Board (13-24 October 1997) and tentative schedule of in-session meetings

- Draft provisional agenda for the fifteenth executive session of the Board (20 June 1997)

[Both proposals circulated to the meeting in English only]

Speakers on items 6 and 7

1. President of the Board
2. Secretary-General of UNCTAD
3. Jamaica (Latin American and Caribbean Group)
4. Netherlands (for European Union)
5. Nepal
6. Morocco (for African Group)
7. United States of America
8. Philippines (Asian Group and China)
9. India
10. Pakistan
11. Chile
12. Secretary of the Trade and Development Board

Action on agenda items 6 and 7

The Board approved the theme of the high-level segment of its forty-fourth session (i.e. "Globalization, competition, competitiveness and development") and the date of the high-level segment, i.e. 23 October 1997. The Board also took note of the design of the forty-fourth session as circulated in the tabulation by the secretariat. Furthermore, the Board took note of the statement by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD concerning his intention to hold consultations with delegations on focusing the theme of the high-level segment as the substantive preparations of the secretariat began, and to report his thinking to the Board.

The Board further noted that the President intended to continue his consultations on item 6 and that, at the next monthly consultations of the President on 30 April 1997, there would also be an opportunity to discuss

detailed proposals by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the organization of the events connected with the high-level segment.

The Board took note of the President's statement that his consultations on the establishment of a trust fund to enhance the participation of developing countries' experts in UNCTAD meetings were progressing well, that he intended to report fully on the outcome at the next round of monthly consultations and that he was keeping in mind that this matter may be placed on the agenda of the Board as mandated by the decision of the Board without prejudice to an early successful conclusion of agreement on this item.

Finally, the Board approved the draft provisional agendas for its fifteenth executive session and its forty-fourth regular session. */

Item 8: Other business

(a) Progress in the reorganization of the UNCTAD secretariat

Speakers on item 8(a)

1. Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD
2. Jamaica (for Latin American and Caribbean Group) requested that the text of the Deputy Secretary-General's statement be circulated to delegations.
3. Morocco (African Group), Egypt, Pakistan, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, China and Uganda all spoke in favour of re-establishing the UNCTAD Unit on Assistance to the Palestinian People.

Action on item 8(a)

The Board took note of the statement by the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the progress in the reorganization of the UNCTAD secretariat.

(b) Membership of the Working Party 1997

Action on item 8(b)

The Board took note that the 19 members of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget for 1997, as designated by the regional groups, were as follows:

Australia; Argentina; Bulgaria; Chile; China; Ethiopia; Germany; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Mexico; Morocco; Norway; Philippines; Poland; Russian Federation; South Africa; Sri Lanka; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and the United States of America.

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*/ For the provisional agendas, see annex.

The Board also noted that the dates scheduled in the calendar of meetings for the second part of the twenty-ninth session of the Working Party (i.e. 14-16 April 1997) had been changed to 21-23 May 1997.

Item 9: Report of the Board on its fourteenth executive session

In accordance with past practice, the Board authorized the Rapporteur, under the authority of the President, to prepare the report of the Board on its fourteenth executive session. */

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*/ The final report will be circulated in TD/B/EX(14)/5.

Annex

A. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTEENTH EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOARD

(20 June 1997)

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Matters requiring action by the Board in follow-up to the ninth session of the Conference and arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies:

   (a) Reports of the Commissions on their first sessions

   (b) Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its twenty-ninth session

   (c) Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on preparations for a meeting with actors in development

   (d) Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the implementation of the proposals contained in Board agreed conclusions 436 (XLIII): Development in Africa

3. Other matters in the field of trade and development:

   (a) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its thirtieth session

   (b) Report of the Joint UNCTAD/IMO Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Maritime Liens and Mortgages and Related Subjects on its ninth session

4. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

   (b) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

5. Other business

6. Report of the Board on its fifteenth executive session.

B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE BOARD

(13 - 24 October 1997)

1. Procedural matters:
   (a) Election of officers
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
   (c) Adoption of the report on credentials
   (d) Provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Board

2. Segment for high-level participation: Globalization, competition, competitiveness and development

3. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Income distribution and growth in a global context

4. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:
   (a) Policy reforms in agriculture and their implications for LDCs' development;
   (b) Contribution by the Board to the consideration of the General Assembly, at its fifty-second session, of holding a third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

5. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: performance, prospects and policy issues

6. Technical cooperation activities:
   (a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
   (b) Consideration of other relevant reports:
   - Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

7. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
   (a) Review of the calendar of meetings
   (b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

8. Other business

9. Adoption of the report of the Board on its forty-fourth session.